

C. Claims

The present Amendment has been prepared in accordance with a revised format established by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office as set forth in the O.G. Notice 1267 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 106 of February 25, 2003.

Please cancel claims 6-9 without prejudice or disclaimer and amend claims 1-5 as follows. In accordance with the revised amendment format, a complete listing of all the claims appears below; this listing replaces all earlier amendments and listings of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A single-crystalline film disposed between a pair of boundaries, said single-crystalline film having a liquid crystal phase at a temperature above the crystal phase and a molecular alignment ~~order provided through phase transition from a~~ in the liquid crystal phase which forms a molecular alignment of the single crystalline film in the crystal phase.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The single-crystalline film according to Claim 1, wherein the liquid crystal phase includes a lower order liquid crystal phase and a higher order liquid crystal phase.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The single-crystalline film according to Claim 1, wherein the liquid crystal phase ~~includes~~ includes a smectic phase.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The single-crystalline film according to Claim 3, comprising a smectic liquid crystal material providing a uniform molecular alignment in a smectic layer.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The single-crystalline film according to Claim 4, wherein the smectic liquid crystal material has a molecular structure which is symmetrical with respect to its molecular long axis.

6. - 9. (Cancelled)